Human Organ Act 1994; Pre-natal Sex Determination Test, 1994 or any Act or regulations of the State Govts., Local bodies etc. The Medical Council of India or the appropriate State Medical Councils have been empowered to take disciplinary action against a physician for violation of the provisions of the Regulations. Such erring physician may be awarded punishment as deemed fit which may include removal of his name from the register permanently or for a limited period after conducting an enquiry.

**Malnutrition Cases in Maharashtra**

2769. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the cases of malnutrition in the first three years of life are being registered in the eight district of Maharashtra, especially in Vidarbha region;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have formulated any strategy to overcome the problem by providing assistance to the State Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (e) No, Sir. As per information received from the Government of Maharashtra, the number of cases of malnutrition registered in these eight districts is in the similar proportion as observed for the State of Maharashtra as a whole. The Government has adopted the following measures in the country including the State of Maharashtra to overcome the problem of malnutrition :—

- Increased Agricultural Production.
- Improving the purchasing power of the people through income generating schemes.
- Availability of essential food items at subsidized cost through Public Distiibution System.
- Nutrition education to increase the awareness and bringing about tne desired changes in the feeding practices including promotion of breast feeding.
- Supplementary feeding prog/ammes such as:

  (i) Integrated Child Development Services Scheme (ICDS).

(ii) Special Nutrition Programme (SNP)

(iii) Balwadi Nutrition Programme (BNP)

(iv) Wheat Based Supplementary Nutrition Programme.

(v) Pradhan Mantri Grameen Yojana (PMGY)

(vi) Mid-day Meal Programme.

Programme for Prevention of Specific Nutrient Deficiency Disorder such as :

(a) National Iodine Deficiency Disorder Control Programme.

(b) Programme to prevent Blindness due to Vitamin 'A' deficiency and Nutritional Anaemia due to Iron deficiency as a part of Reproductive and Child Health Programme.

(c) Pilot Project for control of Micronutrient Malnutrition.

**Maternal Mortality**

†2770. SHRI ISAM SINGH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether according to the National Family Health Survey Report 1998, due to excess bleeding, maternal mortality rate in the country is still 30 per cent; and

(b) if so, the action plan to tackle and curb it?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) The National Family Health Survey-2 (1998-99) has reported on Maternal Mortality Ratio in the country. The casues contributing to maternal mortality have not been reported by this survey. However, as per the data on Maternal Mortality Ratio and its causes as reported by Sample Registration System of Registrar General of India for 1998, haemorrhage accounted for 29.6% of maternal deaths.

(b) For bringing down maternal mortality rates, various interventions are being implemented as a part of the Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) Programme in all districts of the country. The intervention for reducing maternal mortality and improving safe motherhood include

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.